

Testimony in support of:
S.B. No. 4: AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT CLEAN AIR ACT

Dear Honorable Co-chairs Cohen, Gresko, Haskell, and Lemar,

My name is Serena Levingston and I am a sophomore at Wesleyan University. As a member of the climate action group Sunrise Movement Wesleyan, I find it imperative to write to you in support of S.B. No. 4, An Act Concerning The Connecticut Clean Air Act. This act would encourage electric vehicle use and would greatly benefit environmental justice communities.

As a four-year Middletown resident, I am deeply invested in the health of my community and communities across Connecticut. One key aspect of this bill is the electrification of bus fleets, prioritizing environmental justice communities. Air pollution threatens young children's lungs, contributing to high rates of asthma and other issues, and switching to electric school buses would allow young lungs to breathe easier. Environmental justice communities face marginalization in every aspect of their lives, exacerbating existing issues and creating new ones, so it is especially important that bus fleets are electrified for these neighborhoods.

As the climate crisis intensifies, it is crucial to take steps towards a green future in which all have equitable access to resources. This act prioritizes environmental justice communities, those most exposed to toxicity and environmental degradation, especially marginalized and vulnerable groups such as communities of color. It would also further the mitigation of carbon emissions to limit climate change, and has multiple methods for increasing renewable and electric energy use. About 73% of youth say they currently feel the effects of climate change, according to a UN survey. As such, it is critical to support S.B. No. 4 to take action for this generation and the ones to come.

Regards,

Serena Levingston